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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:	Barry Byron		
Appln. No.:	10/656,027	Confirmation No.:	8490
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Title:	**Apparatus and Method for Sealing a Bag**	Group Art Unit:	3721

Please cancel claims 23, 33, and 40. Please add the following new claims.

43. (New) A sealing apparatus, comprising:

an elongated sealing member having a horizontal x-axis and a vertical y-axis, the x and y-axis intersection point at a central longitudinal axis of the elongated sealing member, wherein the x and y-axis extend beyond the sealing member and form quadrants, an upper left quadrant, an upper right quadrant, a lower left quadrant and a lower right quadrant; and

an elongated receiver portion having two portions, a closed circumferential portion and an open circumferential portion coupled to the closed circumferential portion, said portions forming an engagement aperture to receive the sealing member, wherein the open circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion providing access to the engagement aperture, the central opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opened circumferential portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, the distal end of said lugs projecting generally outwardly from the opened circumferential portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the opened circumferential portion;

wherein when the engagement aperture receives the elongated sealing member, the closed circumferential portion is disposed at least in the upper left and upper right quadrants, the open circumferential portions is disposed in the lower left and lower right quadrants, the first and second ridges are positioned proximate to the y-axis, and where each of said proximal end and

distal end of said lugs are arranged distal to the y-axis relative to the ridges and one of each lugs in the lower left and lower right quadrants, said lugs positioned on the elongated receiver portion such that a longitudinal plane extending through each of the lugs intersects with the elongated sealing member x and y-axis intersection point.

44. (New) A sealing apparatus for sealing a bag, comprising:

an elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive an elongated sealing member, the receiver portion having a horizontal x-axis and a vertical y-axis for each engagement aperture, the x and y-axis intersection point at a central longitudinal axis of each engagement aperture, wherein the x and y-axis form quadrants, an upper left quadrant, an upper right quadrant, a lower left quadrant and a lower right quadrant, said elongated receiver portion further comprising two portions, a closed circumferential portion, that is disposed at least in the upper left and upper right quadrants, and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, the open circumferential portions disposed in the lower left and lower right quadrants and comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion for providing access to the engagement aperture, the central opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion and are positioned proximate to the y-axis, the opened circumferential portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, each of said proximal end and distal end of said lugs arranged distal to the y-axis relative to the ridges and one of each lugs arranged in the lower left and lower right quadrants, the distal end of said lugs projecting generally outwardly from the opened circumferential portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the opened circumferential portion, said lugs positioned on the elongated receiver portion such that a longitudinal plane through each of the lugs intersects with the x and y-axis intersection point.

45. (New) A method for sealing a resealable bag, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus having an elongated sealing member and an elongated receiver portion, the elongated sealing member comprising a horizontal x-axis and a vertical y-axis, the x and y-axis intersection point at a central longitudinal axis of the elongated sealing member, wherein the x and y-axis extend beyond the sealing member

and form quadrants, an upper left quadrant, an upper right quadrant, a lower left quadrant and a lower right quadrant, and the elongated receiver portion comprising two portions, a closed circumferential portion and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, said portions defining an engagement aperture for receiving the sealing member, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion and provides access to the engagement aperture, the central opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opened circumferential-portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, the distal end of said lugs projecting generally outwardly from the opened circumferential portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the opened circumferential portion;

positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture;

positioning the sealing member proximate to the portion of the resealable bag and the engagement aperture; and

pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion with the portion of the resealable bag interposed between the sealing member and the receiver portion,

wherein upon pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture, the closed circumferential portion of the elongated receiver portion is disposed at least in the upper left and upper right quadrant of the elongated sealing member, and the opened circumferential portion is disposed in the lower left and lower right quadrant, the first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion being positioned proximate to the y-axis, and each of each the lugs is arranged distal to the y-axis relative to the ridges and in the lower left and lower right quadrants, said lugs positioned on the elongated receiver portion such that a longitudinal plane through each of the lugs intersects with the x and y-axis intersection point.